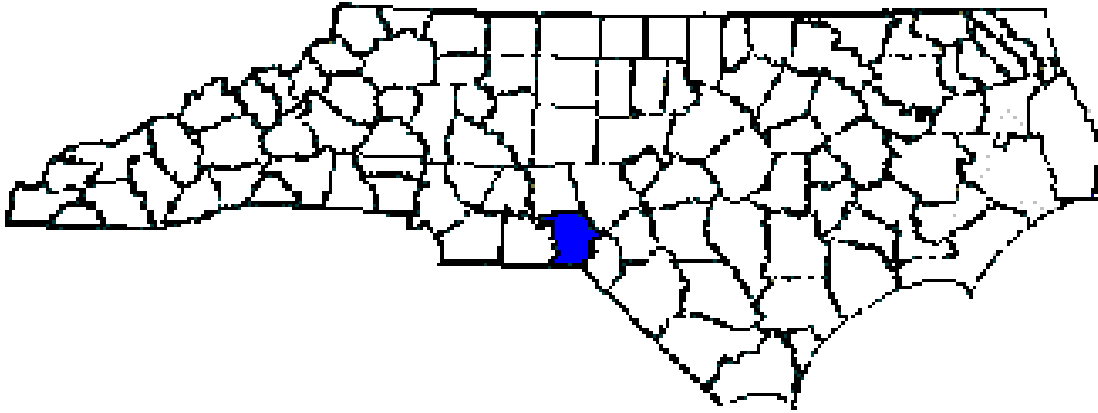


# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005



**Little River Bridge Mitigation Site**  
**Richmond County**  
**TIP No. B-2608**



Prepared By:  
Natural Environment Unit & Roadside Environmental Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
December 2005

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| SUMMARY .....                                     | 1 |
| 1.0 Introduction .....                            | 2 |
| .1 Project Description .....                      | 2 |
| .2 Purpose .....                                  | 2 |
| .3 Project History .....                          | 2 |
| 2.0 Vegetation: .....                             | 4 |
| .1 Success Criteria .....                         | 4 |
| .2 Description of Species.....                    | 4 |
| .3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring .....         | 4 |
| .4 Conclusions. ....                              | 4 |
| 3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations ..... | 4 |

## FIGURES

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Figure 1 – Site Location Map ..... | 3 |
|------------------------------------|---|

## APPENDICES

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Appendix A – Site Photos ..... | 5 |
|--------------------------------|---|

## **SUMMARY**

The Little River Bridge Mitigation Site is located in Richmond County. The site was planted in 2001 and was designed as wetland mitigation for impacts associated with bridge project B-2608.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 2.48 acres total of wetland restoration. The restoration effort involved re-vegetating the area that was temporarily impacted due to the use of mechanized land clearing. The area that was impacted by mechanized clearing is being monitored to ensure that it re-attains wetland jurisdictional status. The restoration area was re-vegetated with bottomland hardwood species. No hydrologic monitoring is required for this project; however, vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the third year of monitoring, the Little River Bridge site shows by visual observation that the planted species in the wetland are surviving and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status. Since, last year's monitoring period about half of the site was inadvertently mowed. These areas will be replanted this winter.

NCDOT recommends to discontinue vegetation monitoring of this site.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Description**

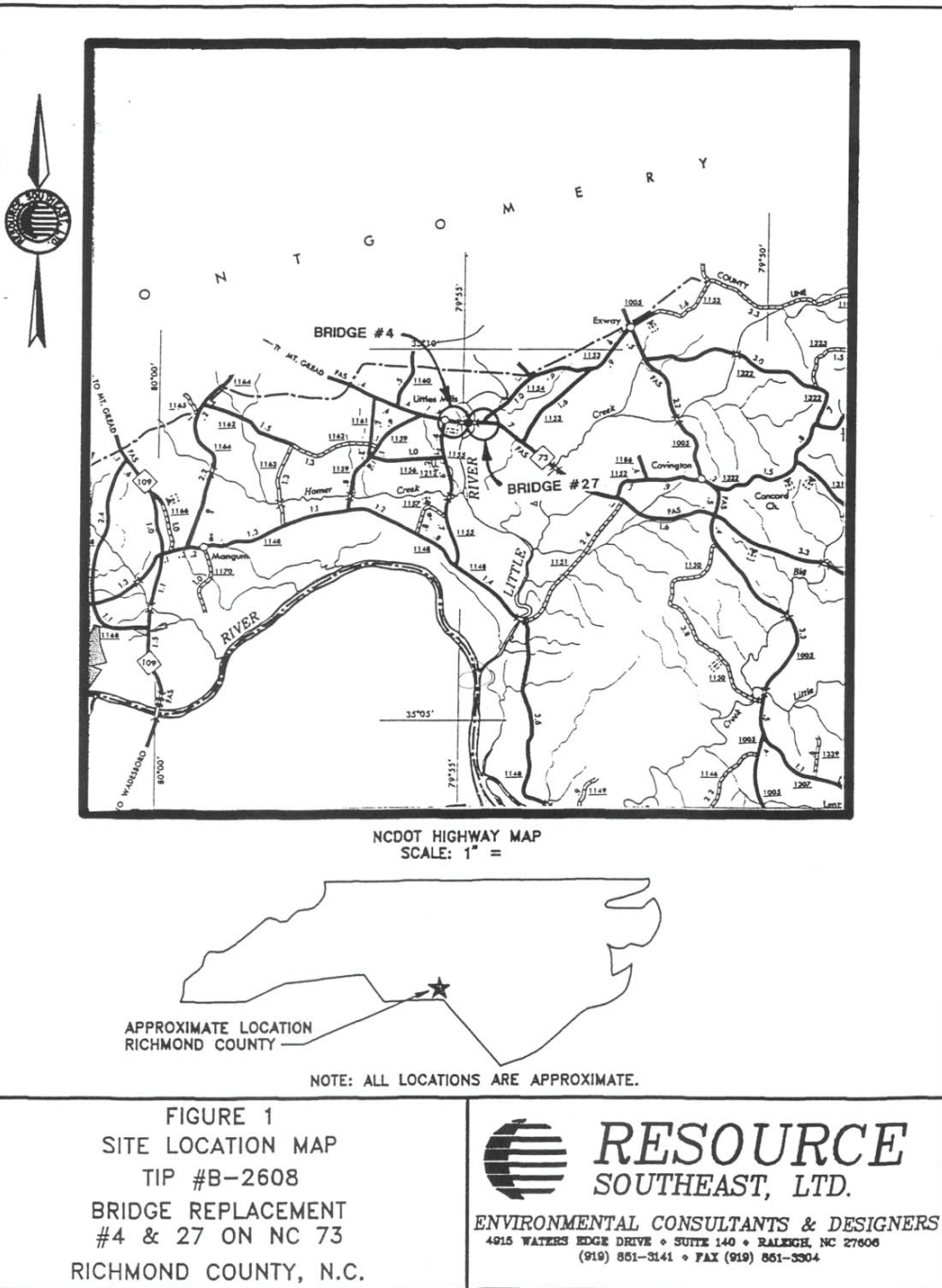
The Little River Bridge Mitigation site is located at Bridge No. 4 over Little River and Bridge No. 27 over Little River Overflow and approaches on NC-73 East of Little Mills (Figure 1). The site consists of approximately 2.48 acres of mitigation for wetland impacts associated with project B-2608.

### **1.2 Purpose**

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, the site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2005 at the Little River Bridge mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

### **1.3 Project History**

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| March 2001     | Site planted                   |
| September 2003 | Vegetation Monitoring (1 year) |
| August 2004    | Vegetation Monitoring (2 year) |
| August 2005    | Vegetation Monitoring (3 year) |



## **2.0 VEGETATION: LITTLE RIVER BRIDGE MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 3 MONITORING)**

### **2.1 Success Criteria**

Success Criteria states that the temporarily impacted area where mechanized clearing occurred shall be replanted using bottomland hardwood species and the temporarily impacted area must re-attain jurisdictional status at the end of three years.

### **2.2 Description of Species**

The following wetland species were planted in the Wetland Reforestation area:

*Salix nigra*, Black Willow

*Betula nigra*, River Birch

*Quercus nigra*, Water Oak

*Quercus falcata* var. *falcata*, Southern Red Oak

*Quercus falcata* var. *pagodaefolia*, Cherrybark Oak

### **2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring**

The impacted area where the mechanized clearing occurred and was re-vegetated is re-attaining jurisdictional status and the planted species are surviving. Since, last year's monitoring period about half of the site was inadvertently mowed. These areas will be replanted this winter.

**Site Notes:** Other species noted: fennel, woolgrass, bahia, cattail, goldenrod, *Juncus* sp. nutsedge, smartweed, *Aster* sp., green ash, foxtail, *Baccharis* sp., sweetgum, pine, *Pluchea* sp., and lespedeza.

### **2.4 Conclusions**

There were approximately 2.48 acres total of wetland restoration on site. There were no plots established on the site. By visual observation the Little River Bridge site shows that the planted species are surviving and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status. Since, last year's monitoring period about half of the site was inadvertently mowed. These areas will be replanted this winter.

### **3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations**

NCDOT will replant the areas that were inadvertently mowed and discontinue vegetation monitoring at the Little River Bridge Site.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **SITE PHOTOS**

# Little River Bridge



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4